



# City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

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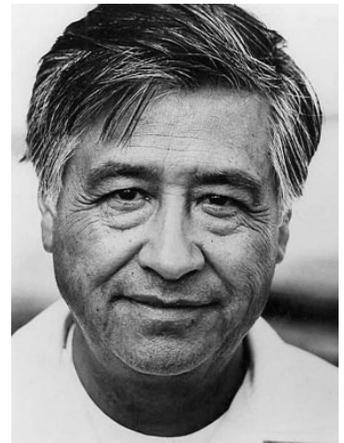
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**March 2014**

Dear Friends:

During the Mayor's State of the City address, he emphasized that we need to embrace all aspects of our community's culture. Over the past month, Tucson has embraced many aspects of our community's culture and heritage by attending events and festivals.

To fully embrace our culture, we must remember those that struggled to improve the quality of all lives in our community, through their work, efforts and commitment for change. Cesar Chavez, from Southern Arizona, gave our nation and each of us a unique example that we could live our lives by.



He understood that ours is a country founded on the idea that we are all created equal, and he knew that whatever hardship it took, it was nothing compared to the daily struggles of thousands of workers who labored in abhorrent conditions. Chavez worked to ensure that hard working, decent people were treated with the dignity and respect that all human beings deserve.

His selfless dedication for farm worker and worker rights, economic justice, civil rights, environmental justice, peace, nonviolence, empowerment of the poor and disenfranchised, is a monumental legacy that will inspire all and the generations to come. What is most important is that remembering and honoring Cesar Chavez inspires more people to become involved in all of the causes which continue his extraordinary legacy.

Our community will gather again on Saturday, March 29, at Pueblo High School and march to Rudy Garcia Park to honor Cesar Chavez, his work and legacy. The new motion picture about his life will open the same weekend and in 2015, Tucson will formally honor Cesar Chavez with a day in his honor.

Thank you.

Richard G. Fimbres  
Your Council Member

## Ward 5 News

### Sunnyside Little League Softball Championship Sign Unveiling

On Saturday, March 29, Ward 5 Council Member Richard Fimbres and the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation will be unveiling of the Sunnyside Little League Softball World Series championship signs located at Mission Manor Park. This is the first championship for the team and Tucson in Little League Softball™ World Series competition. Sunnyside defeated McLean, Va., 9-0, the Sunnyside Little League girls 12 and under team from Tucson, Ariz., to become Little League Softball World Series champions.



### Modular Mining Expansion Ribbon Cutting

Modular Mining Systems recently completed a roughly \$10 million expansion, adding about 50 new jobs with salaries averaging more than \$60,000 per year. Ward 5 Council Member Richard Fimbres along with Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild helped cut the ribbon for the company's new Integrated R+D and Support Center. Modular Mining Systems employs 600 people worldwide, with 225 at its Tucson corporate headquarters, 3285-3289 E. Hemisphere Loop. The company took advantage of the City of Tucson Primary Jobs Incentive, which provided a credit of construction sales tax for qualifying expenses such as job-training, public infrastructure improvements and/or offsets to impact fees.



### Purcell Tire Company Coming to Ward 5

Purcell Tire Company has begun construction on their 4th Tucson store located at 1515 E. Ajo Way. More than fifty people are helping to construct this new store. Purcell Tire and Rubber



Company is built on a tradition of providing quality *Purcell - we'll keep you moving.*™ service and products for all customers with a personalized approach to tire and service needs. Purcell Tire offers a full range of auxiliary services. Their retail locations offer total car care service and road hazard warranties are available with the purchase of new tires. Fifteen new jobs will be created with the new location. We welcome this new business to Ward 5!

### Freedom Park Multi-Use Path Dedication

On March 7th, Ward 5 Council Member Richard Fimbres, Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Vice Mayor Shirley Scott, Pima County District 2 Supervisor Ramón Valadez, and the City of Tucson dedicated the opening of the multi-use path at Freedom Park, 5000 E. 29th Street. The path provides 3,650 linear feet of lighted walking path with five fitness stations, each equipped with two different components that together form a fitness routine. A small Ramada with a seating area and a bench at each fitness station were also built to provide a shaded place to catch your breath while walking or using the fitness equipment.

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Other improvements include a new ADA accessible concrete walk that provides access to the existing playground which will be shaded by a new shade sail structure. An ADA drinking fountain has also been installed at the entry to this walkway. The path lighting system is capable of expansion for more complete light coverage with the installation of a new electrical cabinet that has room for growth. Landscaping is included mainly at the entrance to the Center and between the pool and parking lot. Irrigation has been provided to water new landscaping as well as improving the efficiency of the existing system. Electrical outlets have also been installed at the main ball field to help energize community events. Funding for this project was provided by a \$500,000 Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant.



### Cherrybell Post Office Processing Center Update

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee approved the Postal Reform Act (S.1486). The bill awaits Senate floor consideration. Meanwhile, the House bill (H.R. 2748) passed out of the House Oversight Committee last year and also awaits floor consideration. Once both bills get voted on both the full House and Senate, a conference will occur to iron out differences.

Meanwhile, the President renewed his call for congressional enactment of Postal Service Reform legislation in his recent Fiscal Year 2015 Budget request. In addition, the White House budget would give the U.S. Postal Service authority to eliminate both Saturday letter and package delivery immediately.



## City News

### FY2015 City Budget Update

The Mayor and Council have had begun discussions about the proposed budget for FY 2015. This budget would go into effect on July 1.

City staff has met with the Council offices and there have been several presentations to the Mayor and Council. According to city staff, they said that their projections showed a potential \$30 million budget deficit, and for which the City Manager's plan will include reorganizing some departments and personnel to make government more efficient. This initial figure has reduced since the first discussion on February 4 and the Mayor and Council continue their work to find further efficiencies.

Since becoming your Councilmember, sworn in on December 7, 2009, this is the sixth budget deficit that has had to be dealt with. On December 15, 2009, the Mayor and Council were informed that there was a shortfall of \$33.5 million for that current Fiscal Year (FY 2010). A few months later, it

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was a \$44.5 million dollar budget deficit for FY 2011, a \$55 million dollar deficit for FY 2012, a \$20 million dollar deficit for FY 2013 and a \$15 million for FY 2014.

Further presentations will continue and the schedule for the Mayor and Council consideration of the FY 2015 Budget. Discussion will take place during the April 8 Mayor and Council meeting and the City Manager will formally submit his budget proposal during the April 23 Mayor and Council meeting. Further discussions and a public hearing will take place at the May 6 Mayor and Council meeting. On May 20, more discussions will take place and a vote on the potential approval of a tentative budget will occur. During the June 3, Mayor and Council meeting, a final vote will take place on the proposed FY 2015 Budget. For more information, go online to: <http://budget.tucsonaz.gov/budget>.



### Voter Approved Road Repair Work Continues (Proposition 409)

Crews from Granite Construction Co., under contract with the City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT), have begun work to improve the roadway conditions on Kolb Road from Golf Links Road to Wilmot Road via Grant Road north of Tanque Verde Road, and 22nd Street from Kolb Road to Swan Road.



Both projects will begin with crews lowering manhole and water valve covers. The work will take place Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. - 4 p.m. through Friday, April 18, . During the utility-lowering phase of the projects, crews will close one travel lane while maintaining two travel lanes in each direction. Crews have also begun work to improve roadway conditions on Grande Avenue, from Congress Street to Starr Pass Boulevard. Crews will work Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Because Grande Avenue is a two-lane road, pilot cars and flag crews will be used to direct travel through the work zone. The project is scheduled to be finished by Friday, March 28, 2014.

In other roadwork news, The process for the discussion and consideration for the Broadway Corridor project is ongoing, as well as the Barraza Aviation Parkway. For more information about the Broadway Corridor Project, go online to: <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/broadway/>. For more information about the Barraza Aviation Parkway Project, go online to: <http://dot.tucsonaz.gov/projects/projects.cfm>.

### Tucson Streetcar Update

A Streetcar Celebration was held on Monday, March 24th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Community members had the opportunity to see the Sun Link Tucson Streetcar and visit some of the downtown shops, restaurants, and entertainment and culture attractions along the 3.9-mile streetcar route.

The Streetcar may begin its service on July 25, pending Federal Transit Administration Approval.

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### Ronstadt Transit Center Redevelopment

At the Sept. 24, 2013, regular meeting, Mayor and Council directed staff to prepare a two-phased Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking firms with interest in undertaking a joint development project, including transit, in an area made up of three City-owned properties, including the existing Ronstadt Transit Center site, a triangle-shaped property currently used for parking to the north, and a property across Toole Avenue also used for parking. Mayor and Council requested that the RFP/Phase I -- to solicit interested firms' qualifications -- be completed in Jan./Feb. 2014. OIP Staff oversaw the preparation of the draft RFP/Phase I scope with input from community stakeholders.



On February 19, 2014, the Mayor and Council unanimously agreed to move forward with the Request for Proposals (RFP) Phase I for the Joint Development of the Ronstadt Transit Center. Information about the projects and the RFP process can be found at: <http://www4.tucsonaz.gov/integrated-planning/joint-development-ronstadt-transit-center-project-area>

### Tucson Convention Center Arena Improvement Begin

Renovations to the Tucson Convention Center (TCC) Arena began on March 10th. The \$7.8 million remodel is funded through the Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District and was approved by the Rio Nuevo Board on June 25, 2013. The renovations are scheduled to be complete in December 2014. The project management team has worked closely with TCC staff to ensure that scheduled events will not be interrupted by this work.

The project will enhance the fan experience by improving the comfort, functionality, and appearance of the arena. Some of the renovations include upgrading the restrooms, revamping concession stands, developing a new entryway, and improving the lighting and sound systems. Seating capacity will not change, but both fixed and floor seats will be replaced. The new seats will be more comfortable and have cup holders.



The project team consists of Rio Nuevo Board members, City of Tucson staff, Concord General Contracting, and Swaim Associates as the Architects.

On February 4, 2014, the Mayor and Council approved an additional \$544,000 for infrastructure improvements which includes ductwork, drain lines, and bathroom fixtures to be made in coordination with the above renovations. In addition, the City has spent \$17.5 million for repairs to carpets, sidewalks, and to modernize elevators and escalators at the TCC over the last year. Councilmember Fimbres expressed his appreciation to the Rio Nuevo Board for their work and collaboration on beginning the improvements to the Tucson Convention Center.

## City News

### Garden of Gethsemane Restoration

On February 25th, the restoration of artwork in the Garden of Gethsemane was celebrated by the City of Tucson, Knights of Columbus and neighborhood residents. A sculpture and plaque dedicated to artist Felix Lucero, who died in 1951, is featured at the entrance to the garden that has been open to the public for more than 30 years. Lucero, with no formal training in art, originally created all the art pieces from sand from the Santa Cruz riverbed and originally used plaster, later cement. The site has been considered an important cultural site for the local neighborhood, with dozens of Quinceañeras and marriages performed there.

While the current Garden home of the statuary has protected the artist's fine, primitive, sculpture in cement from the ravages of the river's monsoon currents, it has not protected the fine sculptural details from aging of materials, well intentioned but damaging repairs, and occasional vandalism. With the efforts of the Knights of Columbus, a grant for \$51,000 was secured from the Salvador Foundation of Colorado Springs, Colorado for the repair and restoration of seventeen major items of statuary. In May 2012, Sir Knight Mario Vassallo, President of the Chief Judge John M. Roll Chapter of the Knights of Columbus announced the completion and execution of an agreement for the restoration of the 17 items that was completed by artist Gregory Schoon. The effort to secure the grant and negotiate the work agreement was overseen by the Gethsemane Advisory Board that is comprised of Chairman Mario Vassallo; Project Engineer SK Ralph E Montijo, Administrator for the Tucson Parks and Recreation Department, Peg Weber, and Projects Manager for the Tucson Pima Arts Council, Mary Ellen Wooten.



## Announcements

### Public Input Sought for Sun Tran

The City of Tucson is seeking public comment on proposed service changes and fare increase that could go into effect in July 2014, if approved. The proposed service changes would affect 28 of the 40 fixed routes. These proposals were based on a report developed to help bridge the \$33 million gap predicted in the City's general fund for Fiscal Year 2015, and would decrease the City's general fund contribution to transit.

You can email comments to [suntraninfo@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:suntraninfo@tucsonaz.gov), call (520) 792-9222, or mail them to: Sun Tran, Attn: Marketing, 3920 N. Sun Tran Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85711.



### Arizona Department of Transportation Seeks Comments

The Arizona Department of Transportation is seeking public comments about the feasibility of three potential alternatives for a passenger rail line between the Tucson and Phoenix areas. All three routes run along Interstate 10, south of Eloy, but there are different options for connecting with the Phoenix metro area. Project team members will answer questions this month in the Phoenix area, and they'll be at the Pima County Fair, April 18 -19, from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. The public comment period runs through May 31. There currently is no construction schedule and no funding identified for the rail project.

### Pima County Residents to Vote on New Animal Care Center

The Pima County Supervisors voted to ask voters in November to approve \$22 million in bonds to build a new animal shelter. The vote comes almost two weeks after 35 dogs were moved to a large tent built near the current Pima Animal Care Center (4000 N. Silverbell Rd.) to temporarily ease overcrowding. The Pima County Bond Advisory Committee requested the single measure, giving it priority over more than 130 bond projects submitted by various agencies under active consideration by the committee. A larger bond election could be held in 2015.

### Tucson Partners with Pima County to Help with Housing Assistance

The City and County are collaborating on an interactive website to help residents in need of housing assistance. The Housing Help and Resources website ([PimaCountyHelp.org](http://PimaCountyHelp.org)) uses interactive questioning to help people find housing programs for which they may be eligible. The site, available in multiple languages, offers information about 62 housing programs offered by 22 providers. It also includes information about rentals and landlord/tenant rights.

### Pima County Jail in Need of Paperbacks

The Pima County Adult Detention Complex Library staff is in need of donated paperbacks from various genres including: fiction, fantasy, horror, action, true crime, mystery, poetry and westerns.

Popular works from authors such as James Patterson, Stuart Woods, Dean Koontz, Stephen King, Stephenie Meyer, Suzanne Collins, J. K. Rowling, and Anne Rice are being sought. Additionally, the Pima County Adult Detention Complex Library is in need of Spanish language fiction paperbacks for males and females.

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Any assistance is appreciated. If you have any paperbacks to donate, please bring them to the Lobby of the Pima County Adult Detention Complex, and the Library staff will distribute them to the inmate population.

For more information please contact Wayne Carlson at [Wayne.Carlson@pima.gov](mailto:Wayne.Carlson@pima.gov).



### Teen Volunteers Needed at Zoo

The Reid Park Zoo is recruiting teenagers to help teach Zoo visitors about wildlife and conservation, and assist with special events at the Zoo.

Teen volunteers, who must attend an intensive training course in June, do not work with zookeepers or behind the scenes. Applications are available now. The deadline to apply is April 1.

Learn more about the volunteer program: <http://bit.ly/lg5dP4k>

## Congratulations and Thank You!

### 25th Anniversary of LULAC's Youth Leadership Conference

On Friday, March 14th, LULAC held its 25th Annual Youth Leadership Conference. The philosophy behind the Youth Leadership Conference for the last 25 years has been to encourage and motivate students to remain in school, set goals and reinforce education as the key to success. Another key factor has been to expose students to an environment that fosters positive relationships among peers, teachers and the community. For the past 25 years, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) in southern Arizona has promoted the importance of learning and how vital it is to all children. By providing educational assistance to the youth in our community through various initiatives and programs, LULAC has worked to encourage and motivate students to remain in school, set goals, and reinforce education as the key to success.

LULAC's comprehensive approach to serve student needs has led their efforts to be recognized nationally by past President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former First Lady Barbara Bush, the National Latino Children's Institute, and the LULAC National Educational Service Centers. Locally, their efforts have been recognized by Pima County Government, the



## Congratulations and Thank You!

City of Tucson, the Metropolitan Education Commission, the Arizona NAACP, and most recently by the Tucson Hispanic Coalition.

Congratulations on your successful and milestone event!

### YMCA Essence of Soul Fundraiser

On February 19th, the Mulcahy YMCA held their 8th Annual Essence of Soul Fundraiser in celebration of Black History month at the newly remodeled Kino Community Center. The Fundraiser featured popular Black cuisine, popular and traditional music including a ten piece band, singers and dancers, spoken word, as well as a special performance from Mulcahy YMCA Youth. The goal of the fundraiser was to raise \$28,500 in 2014. The funds that were raised at this event will go to help support program efforts and provide much needed financial support for children and families in economic distress to participate in Mulcahy YMCA programs. Congratulations to Leticia Lujan, Mulcahy YMCA Director for organizing the event and Mr. Paul Appleby, for his poetry reading.

Celebrating its 100th anniversary in Tucson this year, the YMCA of Southern Arizona has been dedicated to improving the quality of human life and to helping all people realize their fullest potential through the development of Spirit, Mind and Body. The annual \*Essence of Soul\* event brings together families and the community for an evening of fun, and showcases how the Y nurtures the potential of every child and teen, improves the community's health & well-being, and gives back and provides support to our neighbors.



### Fred Acosta Job Corps Class of 2014

The Fred Acosta Job Corps Center had their celebration for their Class of 2014 at the Center, 901 S. Campbell, located in Ward 5.

This marked the 35th year of the Fred Acosta Job Corps Center in Tucson and marking the 50th anniversary of the Job Corps Program, approved by Congress and signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson.



Congratulations to the staff of the Fred Acosta Job Corps Center and the graduating class!

### Tucson St. Patrick's Day Parade

It was great to see everyone at the 27th Annual Tucson St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 15th.

I want to thank the parade organizers for inviting me to participate and a job well done, as well as all who turned out for this Tucson tradition!



## Frequently Used Phone Numbers

### **Emergency Services**

Tucson Police Department or Tucson Fire Department  
DIAL 911

### **Permits**

Planning and Development Services Department  
791-5550

### **Housing Assistance**

City of Tucson Community Services Department  
791-4739

### **Tucson Convention Center**

791-4101

### **Code Enforcement & Graffiti Removal**

792-CITY (2489)

### **Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services**

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department  
791-3171

### **Transportation & Street Maintenance**

Tucson Department of Transportation  
791-3154

### **Tucson Water Department**

Billing - 791-3242  
Public Information - 791-4331

### **ParkWise**

791-5071

### **Pima Animal Care**

243-5900



Community Food Bank

**Help those who are in need.  
Give to the Community Food Bank.  
For more information call: 520-622-0525**

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